

HOUSE BILL 545

E4

3lr1224

By: **Delegate Howard**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2013

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Impact of Assault Weapons**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Impact of Assault
4 Weapons; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the
8 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
10 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Assault
11 Weapons.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Assault Weapons.

15 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
17 President of the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
19 of the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee; and

21 (4) the following members appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one representative of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun
23 Policy and Research;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorney's
2 Association;

3 (iii) one representative of the National Alliance on Mental
4 Illness of Maryland;

5 (iv) one representative of a community organization;

6 (v) one representative of a hunting club or organization;

7 (vi) one representative of a local police department; and

8 (vii) one representative of a second amendment advocacy
9 organization.

10 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

11 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff
12 for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

14 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

15 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
16 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) identify and review any data or studies indicating:

19 (i) the accessibility of assault weapons to individuals, including
20 youth and individuals convicted of a felony;

21 (ii) the number of assault weapons owned by individuals;

22 (iii) the number and types of assault weapons in circulation in
23 the State;

24 (iv) the number of crimes committed locally and nationally that
25 involved an assault weapon;

26 (v) any trends in the use of assault weapons during the
27 commission of crimes; and

28 (vi) the effectiveness of assault weapon laws of other states;

1 (2) study the adequacy of State laws and policies relating to assault
2 weapons, including:

3 (i) access of individuals to assault weapons;

4 (ii) the penalties for crimes involving assault weapons;

5 (iii) the storage of assault weapons; and

6 (iv) the transfer of assault weapons; and

7 (3) make recommendations regarding whether existing laws and
8 policies relating to assault weapons adequately protect and serve the public.

9 (g) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings
10 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
11 Government Article, the General Assembly.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
14 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
15 abrogated and of no further force and effect.